British Waterways

PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED NEW BW BOUNDARIES, Spring 2009

At the end of April 2009 British Waterways announced to staff, customers and stakeholders the results of a major strategic review which it believes will form the basis for the continued renaissance and long-term sustainability of the 2,200 miles of canals and rivers in its care. The key proposals are to increase efficiencies, open up new funding and partnership opportunities, create closer links with local communities and start a gradual move over the next decade towards the waterways achieving a 'third sector' trust or charitable status.

As a first step, BW is proposing an internal restructure of its operations in England and Wales with the creation of 11 smaller, 'hands-on' waterway units and, subject to consultation with staff and trade unions, the removal of a layer of management and approximately 100 redundancies from office staff. Together with other planned changes these proposals would enable approximately £10m per annum to be redirected to waterways maintenance.

The newly established 11 waterway units in England and Wales will focus on delivering BW's core maintenance programme to ensure high levels of efficiency and customer service. We expect future waterway managers to be thoroughly familiar with both the assets they are responsible for maintaining and the particular needs of the customers who use them.

The following factors determined our proposal for the allocation of waterways into geographic units:

1. The aim was to achieve approximately uniform size, as measured by waterway distance and the number of physical structures.
2. Over and above this, a major consideration was the opportunity to resolve past inefficiencies which have the potential to arise when water supplies to a waterway are managed by a different team from that managing the use of the supply. Water supply and control were therefore major factors influencing location of boundaries.
3. We have reflected local authority and regional development agency boundaries but where these conflicted with water management considerations, the latter prevailed
4. Wherever possible, we have tried to keep individual canals within a single unit.

BW's working draft of the map shows the proposed new waterway boundaries. The current exact locations of each boundary are listed on pages 3-4 below. Names assigned so far are for working purposes.

ENGLAND & WALES

This map shows proposed new waterway boundaries and the locations for the main waterway offices. There are no proposed boundary changes in Scotland.

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Waterway 1 – North West

Leeds & Liverpool Canal from Liverpool to Lock 1 in Leeds at Junction with River Aire

Leigh Branch of Leeds & Liverpool Canal

Rufford Branch of Leeds & Liverpool

Lancaster Canal

Glasson Branch of Lancaster Canal

St Helens Canal

Ribble Link

Liverpool Docks

Waterway 2 - Yorkshire

Aire & Calder Navigation Main Line

Wakefield Branch (Aire & Calder)

Calder & Hebble Navigation

Dewsbury Arm & Halifax Branch Calder & Hebble

Stainforth & Keadby Canal

Sheffield & Tinsley Canal

Huddersfield Broad Canal (Lock 1 to Junction with River)

New Junction Canal

Pocklington Canal

Ripon Canal

Selby Canal

Sheffield & South Yorkshire Navigation

River Aire

River Ouse

Ure Navigation

Tees Navigation

Hull Marina?

Waterway 3 - Peak & Pennine

Trent & Mersey Canal (to south portal of Harecastle Tunnel)

Macclesfield Canal

Peak Forest Canal

Manchester, Bolton & Bury Canal

Rochdale Canal

Huddersfield Narrow Canal

Ashton Canal

Waterway 4 – Border Counties

Llangollen Canal & Prees Branch

Montgomery Canal & Guilsfield Arm

Shropshire Union Canal to Autherley Junction

Middlewich Branch of Shropshire Union Canal

Shrewsbury & Newport Canal

Weaver Navigation

Waterway 5 – Central Shires

Trent & Mersey Canal (from South Portal of Harecastle Tunnel) to Lock 1 - Derwent Mouth Lock

Coventry Canal

Ashby Canal

Caldon Canal & Leek Branch

Grand Union Canal – Leicester Line to Bridge 82 – Turnover Bridge

River Soar

Waterway 6 – East Midlands

Chesterfield Canal

Erewash Canal

Cromford Canal

Fossdyke Canal

Grantham Canal

Nottingham & Beeston Canal

River Trent & Upper Trent

River Witham

Waterway 7 – South Wales & Severn

River Severn

Gloucester & Sharpness Canal

Stroudwater Canal

Worcester & Birmingham Canal from Kings Norton Junction to Diglis

Droitwich Barge Canal & Droitwich Junction Canal

Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal

Swansea Canal

Waterway 8 – West Midlands

Staffs & Worcester Canal

North Stratford Canal

South Stratford Canal

Stourbridge Canal

Wyrley & Essington Canal

Grand Union Canal to Radford Lock (Leamington Trough Pound)

Birmingham & Fazeley Canal

Tame Valley Canal

BCN

Waterway 9 – South East

Grand Union Canal Leicester Line from Bridge 82 – Turnover Bridge including Welford Arm

Grand Union Canal from Radford Lock (Leamington Trough Pound) to Bridge 175 – Stockers Farm Bridge

GU Wendover, Aylesbury, Buckingham, Northampton & Market Harborough Arms

Oxford Canal & Various Arms

Waterway 10 – Kennet & Avon	Hertford Union Canal
Kennet & Avon Canal	Limehouse Cut
Bridgwater & Taunton Canal	River Stort Navigation
Waterway 11 - London	River Lee Navigation
Grand Union Canal from Bridge 175 – Stockers Farm Bridge	Bow Back Rivers (including: Old River Lea, Waterworks River, Three Mills Wall River, Abbey Creek, City Mill River, Bow Back River, Prescott Channel and Bow Creek)
Slough Arm & Paddington Arm of GU Canal	West India and Millwall Docks
Regent's Canal	

Relevance of new boundaries to BW customers

BW's administrative boundaries should be of little relevance to the great majority of BW's customers. The aim of the restructure as noted above is to achieve greater operating efficiency. Changes will be of greatest interest to boat owners and boating trade customers, and it is these two groups whom we would expect might wish to have a say in the final boundary decisions.

Front line services, such as provision of boater facilities, and of course day to day waterway maintenance, will continue to be delivered through local waterways. Licence enforcement, moorings management and boating trade relationships will transfer into a nationally managed functional team. Many members of this team will have responsibilities relating to a specific geographic area, but these areas will not coincide with the eleven operational units described in this consultation. Greater use of communications technology and better standard processes will mean that these boating functions can be organised in larger geographic areas determined by boating market rather than engineering considerations. It will be an important objective of the new boating team to improve boater satisfaction. Boaters' access to BW staff for specific queries will continue to be supported via our national customer service team and the internet. We are developing new web access facilities for boating trade customers which will launch in spring 2010.

The consultation process

We are seeking stakeholder views on these boundary proposals; in particular, whether the locations of the boundaries are appropriate, given the objectives outlined in this paper. We would also welcome suggestions for the naming of particular waterway groupings. In order for your views to inform the separate formal, 90 day consultation with our staff and employee representative bodies we are asking for responses by **6th July 2009**. When responding, it will be helpful if you use the appended response form.

We will publish a short report following the consultation summarising the feedback received and any changes to the boundaries made as a result.

Paper copies or a large print version of this consultation paper are available on request from our customer service team on 0845 671 5530.

Please contact caroline.killeavy@britishwaterways.co.uk, Head of Customer Relations, if you have any comments on this consultation process.

Simon Salem
Director of Marketing & Customer Service
12 May 2009

RESPONSE FORM

PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON BW BOUNDARIES MAP, Spring 2009

Please send your comments to boundaryconsultation@britishwaterways.co.uk or by post to

British Waterways Boundary Consultation
64 Clarendon Road
Watford WD17 1DA

to reach us by **6th July 2009**.

You may respond to the consultation in whichever way you wish but it will help us if you use this form and append any further comments. To do this electronically, simply download the form in word format.

Section 1 – comments about individual boundaries

Waterway no. (please refer to list on p2-3)	Proposed boundary you are commenting on	Your comments

Section 2 – names for new waterway units

Our working titles	**Your alternative suggestion**
Waterway 1 – North West	
Waterway 2 - Yorkshire	
Waterway 3 - Peak & Pennine	
Waterway 4 – Border Counties	
Waterway 5 – Central Shires	
Waterway 6 – East Midlands	
Waterway 7 – South Wales & Severn	
Waterway 8 – West Midlands	
Waterway 9 – South East	
Waterway 10 – Kennet & Avon	
Waterway 11 - London	

Many thanks for your help. Please append any other comments on a separate sheet